

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the extension of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program.

The CFATS program, first authorized in 2006, is a continuation of congressional efforts since September 11 to protect the homeland. The program surgically and directly addresses gaps in Federal law regarding the security of high-risk facilities that use or possess chemicals of concern at levels of concern.

The program is unique in that, to avoid overlapping with other Federal programs, CFATS was designed to foster collaboration between the government and regulated parties.

CFATS is a security program. Regrettably, over the years, some have tried to make CFATS a safety program, but safety and security are two very different things. Security is about protecting your ability to operate, and safety is about controlling how you operate. We should continue to preserve the program's focus on security.

Finally, it is imperative that, going forward, we find a way to extend the life of the program for a longer period of time, at least 5 years, in order to give the program, its personnel, and the participants the consistency they all need to be successful in their mission.

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE FROM PANDEMIC

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, today, the House will vote on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

This critical legislation provides much-needed support for working people across America.

It includes funding for free coronavirus tests for everyone who needs it; 14 days of paid sick leave and up to 3 months of paid family and medical leave; enhanced unemployment insurance that will protect furloughed workers; food security through SNAP, student meals, senior nutrition, and food banks; and increased Federal funds for Medicaid.

We are facing an enormous crisis in our country right now.

Once we pass this bill, the Senate and the President need to act swiftly so these resources are made available to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI and all of our colleagues who worked so hard on this over the last several days. Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of the American people.

There is more work to be done, and we will do whatever it takes, bear any burden, confront any obstacle in order to minimize the damage that this pandemic will do to our country, and we will do all that we can to keep our country and our constituents safe.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES TO HELP RECOVERY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the prevailing thought has been "things will get worse before it gets better," and recently, it appears the "worse" part is here.

Necessary measures are being taken as we have learned more about this virus. We now have a new term: "social distancing."

Small businesses, though, are suffering, and tourism, the economy in general. This outbreak is causing a lot of hurt.

Now more than ever, it is important to support our local small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy and are experiencing a decline that we haven't seen in a long time from the recent coronavirus outbreak in their towns.

Their failure will result in a much larger problem for a country that has proven to be quite resilient.

The SBA is offering disaster assistance loans to small businesses impacted by the virus.

The issue is to ease and cushion our economy so that, in a few weeks, we can start our bounce back. And, indeed, we will bounce back.

Last week's measure will help our health providers. Hopefully, this week's economic package is not chock-full of socialist wish lists by the Democrats but is something that will actually be helpful to save lives and the economy and is affordable at the same time.

I hope we can accomplish good work this week.

CORONAVIRUS NOT REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will consider the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, critical legislation to expand paid emergency leave for American workers, to ensure free coronavirus testing, to bolster unemployment insurance for furloughed workers, and to strengthen our safety net for workers and students experiencing food insecurity due to closures.

Democrats and Republicans must continue to advance this emergency legislation to protect the health and economic security of the American people.

The coronavirus does not choose Republican or Democrat, and the American people are looking to this Chamber for swift and decisive leadership.

Madam Speaker, I thank our front-line nurses, doctors, physicians, public health officials, and first responders for

their tireless and courageous efforts to keep Granite Staters safe. They are heroes to all of us, and they are bringing needed comfort to those who have been impacted by this public health crisis.

HONORING CAPTAIN MOISES NAVAS AND GUNNERY SERGEANT DIEGO PONGO

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, Captain Moises Navas and Gunnery Sergeant Diego Pongo, both Marine Raiders, lost their lives on March 8 while on a mission to eliminate ISIS terrorists in Iraq.

I met Captain Navas last year when he spoke at a ceremony to rename a local post office in honor of his fallen comrade, Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman, a central Washington native.

With great poise and humility, the captain said at the time: "We can all sleep well and find comfort in knowing that it is Americans who raise their hands; this Nation's defense is in the hands of guys such as Dietrich Schmieman."

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that we not lose sight of the fact that, as we speak, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces are standing guard to keep our Nation safe.

Today, I rise to echo those powerful words from a brave young captain, pictured here alongside Sergeant Schmieman's parents at the post office dedication, to say that we can indeed sleep soundly because of heroes like Moises, Diego, and Dietrich.

HONORING SIDNEY ESKENAZI

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and fellow Hoosier, Sidney Eskenazi. He will be celebrating his 90th birthday this March 25.

Sidney is a true philanthropist and civic leader. He and his loving wife, Lois, serve as pillars of our Hoosier community and role models for future generations. Without their charitable efforts, many Hoosiers would not have access to higher education, the fine arts, and quality healthcare.

Indiana is indebted to the Eskenazis for their leadership and generosity over the past five decades.

The Pence family, my wife, my children, are truly blessed to consider Sidney and Lois close friends, and we thank them for serving our communities with a true servant heart.

God bless Sid and Lois, and I look forward to continuing to work with them for the benefit of Hoosiers everywhere.

Happy birthday, Sid.

WE REPRESENT ALL OF AMERICA

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I came down this morning, after hearing Father Conroy give his opening speech, to address this House and to address this Nation today in these hallowed Halls to send the message that today is not a day to engage in partisan politics.

As a Republican, my hand is open to my fellow Americans, for us to come together, to stand with our Nation as we face this coronavirus crisis across the country.

Madam Speaker, the people of America are who we represent. They are not Democrat and Republican; they are American. Now is the time to lead with smart, targeted decisionmaking proposals that will improve their lives for the better.

God bless.

COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL ASSISTANT, THE HONORABLE HENRY CUELLAR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Ninamarie Andrews, Special Assistant, the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR, Member of Congress:

HENRY CUELLAR,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 10, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, Ninamarie Andrews, have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of House Employment Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,
NINAMARIE ANDREWS,
Special Assistant,
Office of the 28th District of Texas.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR/COUNSEL, THE HONORABLE HENRY CUELLAR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Travis Knight, Legislative Director/Counsel, the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR, Member of Congress:

HENRY CUELLAR,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 11, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, Travis Knight, have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of House Employment Counsel, I have determined

that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

TRAVIS KNIGHT,
Legislative Director / Counsel,
Offices of U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar.

□ 0915

COVID-19 REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE

(Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, Miami-Dade County has its first two confirmed cases of COVID-19, and we are all very concerned. Across the country, events are canceled and store shelves are empty. With anxieties high, we are receiving mixed messages when what we need right now is coherent direction.

It is discouraging to see countries like South Korea respond much more effectively than we are. While they screen tens of thousands, we have sick patients and frustrated doctors who cannot access testing.

This is not right. We must make tests available and accessible to everyone. We must strengthen our healthcare system so we have the beds, the masks, the respirators, and the supplies to respond to a surge in cases. We must provide relief to our working families and local businesses struggling to cope with this virus.

Madam Speaker, I believe we have it within us to fulfill these needs, but we all must come together for a comprehensive response to meet this moment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0011

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland) at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 13, 2020, at 5:28 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President on declaring a national emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House.

DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONCERNING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) OUTBREAK—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-108)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the United States constitutes a national emergency. This declaration invokes section 1135 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5, to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise the authority under that section to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements of the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance programs and of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule throughout the duration of the public health emergency declared in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I am enclosing a copy of the proclamation I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 2020.

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6201) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6201

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents is as follows: